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Met Office helps predict path of Isabel

18 September 2003

Met Office data are being used by American forecasters tracking Hurricane Isabel. Every 12 hours the Met Office sends guidance, based on where its global computer model is predicting the hurricane will go, to the [National Hurricane Center](#) in Miami. That guidance is then used by the American forecasters, in conjunction with data from other models.

Julian Heming, Met Office Tropical Prediction Scientist, said: "We provide guidance for all tropical cyclones worldwide. The National Hurricane Center is using that guidance, along with other data, to produce the forecasts and warnings. Where Hurricane Isabel is concerned, guidance from the Met Office model has been particularly accurate - forecasts produced five days ago predicted where it will hit the coast to within about 70 miles of where landfall is expected later today".

The centre of the hurricane is predicted to hit North Carolina at around 4 p.m. GMT, today. Winds of 100 m.p.h. and around 10 inches of rain are expected.

In an average year there are between 10 and 15 tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and Caribbean, half of which will become hurricanes.

[More about Met Office tropical cyclone forecast guidance](#)

[How hurricanes form](#)

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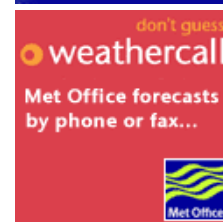
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